(f) the number of applications pending for allotment during the above period, above State-wise;

(g) the time by which these are likely to be cleared;

(h) whether most of these booths do not function properly and this cause very inconvenience to the people of the State; and

(i) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (i) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

[Translation]

Doordarshan and Akashwani as Autonomous Corporation

2426. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make Doordarshan and Akashwani as autonomous corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any complaints have been received by the Government for not giving representation in telecasting programmes of parliamentary proceedings and political parties in accordance with the number of Members in Parliament of various political parties;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 provided for establishment of an autonomous corporation for Akashwani and Doordarshan. However, certain changes, inter-alia, in the Act may be required in the light of the rapidly changing broadcasting scenario. A three member Expert Group has been constituted on 28.12.95 to review the provision of the Prasar Bharati Act and to make recommendations. Further action would be taken on receipt of the recommendations of the Group.

(c) No specific complaints have been received in this regard.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Ban on East-West Airlines

2427. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have put a ban on the flights of East-West Airlines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the ban on the flights of East-West Airlines is likely to be lifted?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Electronic Exchanges in M.P.

2428. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an electronic exchange has been set up at Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the work of laying cable wires in the district is in progress;

(c) if so, the names of places where the cable wire are being laid and the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(d) whether group dialling facilities is being made available in all the areas of Bilaspur district;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The places where cable wires are being laid are Korba, Darri, Bilaspur, Takhatpur, Murngoli, Jorhagaon, Pendra, Betalpur, and Balco and the work is likely to be completed during the year 1996-97.

(d) and (e). No, Sir. Out of 73 places, the group dialling has been made available at 50 places of Bilaspur District. In the remaining 23 places, the facility of group dialling is planned to be extended by March, 1997.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

[English]

Doordarshan Kendras, Goa

2429. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade the programme generating facility at Panaji, Gao to a fulfledged Doordarshan Kendra; and

(b) whether the Government also propose to increase the time slot of Marathi items for the benefit of Marathi artists in Goa?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Doordarshan Kendra